REMARKS

In paragraph 5 of the Action, claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In paragraph 9 of the Action, claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nishimura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,622,254). In paragraph 10 of the Action, claims 2, 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Palmer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,410,577). In paragraph 11 of the Action, claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the rejections, claims 2-6 have been amended. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form. Therefore, claim 4 is in condition of allowance. Claim 2 has been amended to include some of the limitations of claim 4.

As cited in claim 2 of the invention, a method of bonding and sewing a bias piece comprises providing a first bias cloth, laminating a second bias cloth on the first bias cloth and fixing thereto so that warps of the first bias cloth and warps of the second bias cloth cross each other, and fixing the first and second bias cloths to a stretchable cloth stretchable in vertical, lateral and diagonal directions so that the stretchable cloth is stably fixed with the first and second bias cloths.

In the invention, the first cloth and the second cloth are laminated with warp directions thereof crossing each other. Then, the laminated first and second cloths are fixed to the stretchable cloth. The first and second cloths are relatively stiff in the warp direction. However, since the stretchable cloth is stretchable in vertical, lateral and diagonal directions, it is difficult to cut and sew the stretchable cloth alone. With the laminated cloth in which the first and second cloths are laminated with warp directions thereof crossing each other, the stretchable cloth is supported by the laminated cloth especially in the warp directions of the first and second cloth, thereby making it easy to cut and sew the stretchable cloth.

Nishimura et al. discloses a method of forming a fiber material for reinforcing a plastic. In the method, at least one

fiber substrate in which reinforcing fibers extend in two directions including the longitudinal direction and the transverse direction intersecting at a substantially right angle is laminated with at least one second fiber substrate in which reinforcing fibers extend in two directions including directions having angles of ±(25-65) degree relative to the longitudinal direction. Then, the laminates are integrated with each other with stitch yarns passing repeatedly in the direction of lamination.

In Nishimura et al., the fiber substrate is a cloth of reinforcing fibers for reinforcing a plastic. In general, a reinforcing fiber reinforces a plastic only in a fiber direction, and is not stretchable in the fiber direction. Inherently, a cloth of such reinforcing fibers is not stretchable in the fiber direction, i.e. the warp direction. In Nishimura et al., the fiber material may have quasi-isotropic properties by laminating a plurality of fiber substrates having different directions of reinforcing fibers. Also, it is possible to prevent delamination between the laminated fiber substrates by integrating the laminate with stitch yarns.

In the Invention, the first and second cloths are different from the stretchable cloth, and the first and second cloths support the stretchable cloth stretchable in vertical, lateral and diagonal directions. In Nishimura et al., all the fiber substrates are basically the same and non-stretchable in the fiber directions, and the fiber substrates reinforce the plastics in the fiber directions. In Nishimura et al., there is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the stretchable cloth stretchable in vertical, lateral and diagonal directions and the two bias cloths supporting the stretchable cloth. Therefore, Nishimura et al. does not anticipate the Invention.

Palmer et al. discloses a cloth reinforcement member for structural component. The woven layered cloth reinforcement member comprises a plurality of layers of woven cloth stacked in a predetermined sequence. The layers include at least one layer having a fiber in the 0° warp direction with loose tie yarn woven in the fill direction, at least one layer having a fiber in 45° to the warp direction with loose tie yarn woven in the warp direction, and at least one layer having a fiber in the 90° fill direction with

loose tie yarn woven in the warp direction.

In Palmer et al., the reinforcement member can be formed in a simple way, thereby reducing a cost and time. Also, it is possible to obtain precise fiber orientation, which is critical for a structural component since the fibers reinforce the structural component only in the fiber direction and is not stretchable in the fiber direction.

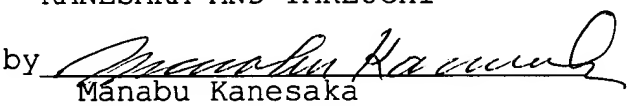
In the Invention, the first and second cloths are different from the stretchable cloth, and the first and second cloths support the stretchable cloth stretchable in vertical, lateral and diagonal directions. In Palmer et al., all the fiber substrates are basically the same and non-stretchable in the fiber direction, and the fiber substrates reinforce the plastics. In Palmer et al., there is no disclosure or suggestion regarding the stretchable cloth stretchable in vertical, lateral and diagonal directions and the two bias cloths supporting the stretchable cloth. Therefore, Palmer et al. does not anticipate the Invention.

It is believed that the rejections and objections are obviated, and the application is now in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

KANESAKA AND TAKEUCHI

by 

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